



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
117TH CONGRESS

January 14, 2022

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Mark Zuckerberg
Chief Executive Officer
Facebook
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA, 94025

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg,

We write as Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) to respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the problem of Spanish-language misinformation on your platform, and to learn more about the steps that your company is taking to address this critical issue.

Addressing Spanish-language misinformation on Facebook must remain an urgent priority. Many federal and state agencies, Members of Congress, and public health organizations rely on platforms like Facebook to communicate life-saving health information and share federal resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. As many as 7 in 10 American adults use Facebook and 39 percent report they get their news from your platform¹. Latinos are oversubscribed to other Facebook-owned platforms with 52 percent of Latinos using Instagram and 46 percent using WhatsApp². Further, Latinos use WhatsApp more than any other ethnic or racial group in the U.S.³

This is not the first time Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus are expressing deep concern on this issue. Many Members have publicly raised the alarm on the spread of Spanish-language misinformation online.^{4,5,6} In July, Members led a letter signed by twenty-six members of Congress on this very issue demanding concrete proof of investment in combating Spanish-language misinformation on your platform.⁷ Members have also called publicly for online platforms to release information on their

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/06/01/facts-about-americans-and-facebook/>

² <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/disinformation-facebook-bad-u-s-spanish-speakers-it-s-even-n1284481>

³ <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/04/07/social-media-use-in-2021/>

⁴ <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/tech-companies-blasted-inaction-spanish-language-disinformation-rcna4489>

⁵ <https://www.lujan.senate.gov/press-releases/lujan-klobuchar-urge-tech-ceos-to-take-action-against-disinformation-dozen-combat-coronavirus-vaccine-disinformation/>

⁶ <https://www.menendez.senate.gov/newsroom/press/menendez-hirono-warren-urge-facebook-to-take-immediate-actions-to-stop-covid-19-misinformation-in-languages-other-than-english>

⁷ <https://www.lujan.senate.gov/press-releases/lujan-klobuchar-cardenas-lead-colleagues-urging-tech-ceos-to-combat-spanish-language-disinformation/>

effectiveness at detecting the prevalence of violative content separated by language. To date, we find the answers given by Facebook to be deeply concerning.

As Hispanic Members of Congress, we have a duty to provide oversight of the role digital platforms play in how we communicate with our communities and how our communities receive important information. Ensuring that Spanish-language misinformation is swiftly and effectively addressed is a priority, and we respectfully ask for a meeting to discuss solutions to the problem of Spanish language misinformation on your platform.

Respectfully,



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Congressional Hispanic Caucus



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First Vice-Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



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